

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1 – 16. **(cancelled)**

17. **(new):** A method of forming an oil-repellent film on a predetermined area of one of a stationary component and a rotary component which together constitute a bearing, comprising the steps of:

supplying a solution of oil repellent through a supply member of an oil repellent supply apparatus and onto said component within the predetermined area thereof, and moving the predetermined area of said component and the supply member of the oil repellent supply apparatus relative to one another to thereby coat the predetermined area with the oil repellent; and

removing excess oil repellent from the predetermined area of said component with an oil repellent removal apparatus.

18. **(new):** The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the predetermined area of said component is juxtaposed with a removal member of the oil repellent removal apparatus, and the predetermined area of said component and the removal member of the oil repellent removal apparatus are moved relative to one another while the excess oil repellent is being removed from the predetermined area of said member with the oil repellent removal apparatus.

19. **(new):** The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the excess oil repellent is removed from the predetermined area with the oil repellent removal apparatus before the solution of oil repellent solution solidifies in the predetermined area.
20. **(new):** The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the excess oil repellent is removed from the predetermined area with the oil repellent removal apparatus before the solution of oil repellent diffuses out of the predetermined area.
21. **(new):** The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the excess oil repellent is removed from the predetermined area with the oil repellent removal apparatus at the same time the solution of oil repellent is being supplied to the predetermined area with the oil repellent supply apparatus.
22. **(new):** The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the supplying of the solution of oil repellent comprises supplying the solution of oil repellent through a nozzle directed towards and spaced from the predetermined area of said component.
23. **(new):** The method as claimed in claim 22, further comprising checking whether the nozzle is clogged before the solution of oil repellent is supplied through the nozzle and onto said component.
24. **(new):** The method as claimed in claim 22, further comprising treating the nozzle to remove solidified oil repellent from the nozzle.
25. **(new):** The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the removing of the excess oil repellent comprises suctioning some of the solution of oil repellent from the predetermined area of said component.

26. **(new):** The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the suction is created in a recess defining an opening confronting the predetermined area of said component, the shape of the opening being complementary to at least a portion of the predetermined area of said component.

27. **(new):** The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the excess oil repellent is removed via a removal member of the oil repellent removal apparatus, and further comprising supplying, to the removal member of the oil repellent removal apparatus, a solvent capable of dissolving the oil repellent to prevent the solution of oil repellent from solidifying on the removal member of the oil repellent removal apparatus.

28. **(new):** A method of forming an oil-repellent film on a predetermined area of one of a stationary component and a rotary component which together constitute a bearing, comprising the steps of:

juxtaposing the predetermined area of said component with a supply member of an oil repellent supply apparatus and with a removal member of an oil repellent removal apparatus;

rotating the predetermined area of said component and the supply member of the oil repellent supply apparatus relative to one another and rotating the predetermined area of said component and the removal member of the oil repellent removal apparatus relative to one another, at the same time;

supplying a solution of oil repellent through the supply member of the oil repellent supply apparatus and onto said component within the predetermined area thereof while the predetermined area of said component and the supply member are rotated relative to one another to coat the predetermined area with the oil repellent;
and

removing excess oil repellent from the predetermined area of said component with the oil repellent removal apparatus while the predetermined area of said component and the removal member are rotated relative to one another.

29. **(new):** The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the excess oil repellent is removed from the predetermined area with the oil repellent removal apparatus before the solution of oil repellent solution solidifies in the predetermined area.

30. **(new):** The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the excess oil repellent is removed from the predetermined area with the oil repellent removal apparatus before the solution of oil repellent diffuses out of the predetermined area.

31. **(new):** The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the excess oil repellent is removed from the predetermined area with the oil repellent removal apparatus at the same time the solution of oil repellent is being supplied to the predetermined area with the oil repellent supply apparatus.

32. **(new):** The method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the supplying of the oil repellent with the supply apparatus comprises directing the solution of oil repellent onto the predetermined area at a location upstream of a location from which the oil repellent is removed from the predetermined area of said component by the oil repellent removal apparatus, with respect to the direction in which the predetermined area of said component is rotated relative to both the supply member of the oil repellent supply apparatus and the removal member of the oil repellent removal apparatus.

33. **(new):** The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the supplying of the solution of oil repellent comprises supplying the solution of oil repellent through a nozzle directed towards and spaced from the predetermined area of said component.

34. **(new):** The method as claimed in claim 33, further comprising checking whether the supply nozzle is clogged.

35. **(new):** The method as claimed in claim 33, further comprising treating the nozzle to remove solidified oil repellent from the nozzle.

36. **(new):** The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the removing of the excess oil repellent comprises suctioning some of the solution of oil repellent from the predetermined area of said component.

37. **(new):** The method as claimed in claim 36, wherein the suction is created in a recess defining an opening confronting the predetermined area of said component, the shape of the opening being complementary to at least a portion of the predetermined area of said component.

38. **(new):** The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the excess oil repellent is removed via the removal member of the oil repellent removal apparatus, and further comprising supplying, to the removal member of the oil repellent removal apparatus, a solvent capable of dissolving the oil repellent to prevent the solution of oil repellent from solidifying on the removal member of the oil repellent removal apparatus.